THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Convention discussed the various problems facing the handloom sector, such as, fluctuation in yarn prices, availability of inputs, problems of marketing and credit, competition from powerloom and mill sectors, etc.

(b) As a follow up and as part of the action plans, a meeting of State Ministers of Handlooms was convened and the State Governments have been urged to take immediate steps for effective implementation of the provisions of the Handloom Reservation Act and the orders issued thereunder to provide relief to the handloom sector from the unequal competition of the mills and powerlooms. Coverage of handloom weavers under the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development has also been taken up as an action point with a view to providing looms, work-sheds, etc., to the handloom weavers. A "Health Package Scheme" has also been introduced by the Ministry to provide health coverage to handloom weavers, alongwith a sheme to set up dyeing units to improve the quality of dyeing.

Development Schemes for Handlom Weavers

2429. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch 100 area-based project for concentrated development of handloom weavers during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to cover 100 villages under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Project Package Scheme, the State Governments are required to formulate comprehensive need based projects having one or more of the following objectives namely, benefit a particular area, benefit a particular target group or develop a particular product.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under the Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme, villages having concentraion of skilled handloom weavers but poor in infrastructure would be assisted for a comprehensive package of benefits related to handloom weaving as such and also to improve their quality of life.

रेशमी धागे का आयात

2430. **श्री राम नरेश यादव** : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान कितनी मात्रा में रेशमी धागे का आयात किया गया;

(ख) वर्ष 1993–94 के दौरान इसकी मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुये कितनी मात्रा में रेशमी धागे का आयात किये जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) इसकी मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुये इसके घरेलू उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिये सरकार क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी : (क) और (ख)